

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the subtitle and text of the Abstract as follows:

Abstract of the Disclosure

~~The invention concerns a method for treating an effluent comprising at least one biological treatment step leading to the production of biological sludge, a step during which the effluent is contacted with micro-organisms in a tank, wherein ozone-containing gas is injected into said tank comprising at least 2.5 mg of ozone per litre of gas.~~ Methods for treating aqueous effluent, which include reducing sludge formation during the biological treatment of an aqueous effluent. The sludge formation is reduced by injecting an ozone containing gas into an aeration tank which contains the effluent. The affluent is in contact with microorganisms in the tank at least once during the method. The ozone containing gas contains at least 2.5 mg of ozone per liter of the gas.

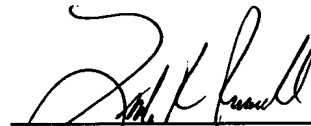
Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Prior to the initial examination of the present application, Applicants wish to have this amendment entered. While adding no new subject matter to the application, Applicants have revised the Specification to meet standard U.S. formatting requirements and converted the European style of multiple dependent claims to the U.S. format of single dependency.

Given the above amendments to the claims and the comments herein, Applicants respectfully request notice of allowance of all pending claims at the earliest convenience. However, should the Examiner envision further rejection or comment, he is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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